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By: _____

Leslie Rector

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT & TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant: Ruoho *et al.*

Docket No.: 096429.9079

Serial No.: 09/389,835

Group Art Unit: 1646

Confirmation No: 5941

Examiner: Brannock, Michael T.

Filed: September 3, 1999

FOR: BACTERIORHODOPSIN/G PROTEIN-COUPLED RECEPTOR CHIMERAS

REQUEST FOR RECONSIDERATION UNDER 37 C.F.R. 1.111

Assistant Commissioner for Patents
Washington, DC 20231

Sir:

In the matter of the above-identified application, and in response to the non-final Office Action mailed October 1, 2002, Applicants request reconsideration on the merits, withdrawal of the rejections, and allowance of the claims. This response is accompanied by a petition for a one-month extension of time, extending the period for reply from January 1, 2003 to February 1, 2003. Because February 1, 2003 is a Saturday, and because this response is being filed Monday, February 3, 2003, only a one-month extension is required.

REMARKS

Claims 2-28 are pending in the application, claims 2-12 and 15-18 are under consideration, and claims 13, 14, and 19-28 have been withdrawn from consideration.

In the October 1, 2002 Office Action, the Examiner indicated that the following rejections, made in the October 22, 2001 Office Action, were withdrawn: claims 1 and 6-12 under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph; claims 4 and 5 under 35 U.S.C. 112, first paragraph; claims 1, 11, and 12 under 35 U.S.C. 102(b); and claims 4 and 5 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) over Popot *et al.* (Current Opinion in Biotechnology 6:394-402, 1995) and Hoflack *et al.* (Trends in Pharm. Sci. 15:7-9,